

TIP OF THE SWORD

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Incirlik Air Base, Turkey



Top honors

Incirlik announces annual award winners

TIP OF THE SWORD

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Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Miranda
(Left to right) Kristen Wood, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron, looks to pass the ball to teammate Michelle Brittingham, while Security Forces Squadron defense ,Stephanie Welch, presses in during Monday's championship basketball game. See related story, page 7.

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Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards
First Lt. David Ware, 39th Communications Squadron executive officer, talks to a group of seventh graders at the high school. The Company Grade Officer Council recently adopted the seventh and eighth grade class. See related story, Page 6.

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On the cover:

Angela Mirich-Holder, 39th Services Squadron Child Development Center director, reads a book to Jada Moore, 11 months. Ms. Mirich-Holder is one of this year's annual-award winners. See related story, page 4. (Annual awards photos by Senior Airman Michelle Miranda)

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Virtual outprocessing

USAFE Combat Intro/Exit program simplifies process

U.S. Air Forces in Europe Combat Intro/Exit program is up and running at Incirlik, allowing military people to outprocess online.

The program uses the virtual military personnel flight to help streamline and consolidate outprocessing actions into a single virtual outprocessing checklist accessible from any .mil computer.

The base-wide checklist is tailored to people's squadron-specific outprocessing requirements, as well as base requirements.

The military personnel flight's relocations office inputs names in the vMPF after the initial relocation briefing. People are then able to view their checklist from any computer.

"The big benefit from this program is that all base agencies required for outprocessing are notified that you are projected to depart Incirlik," said Tech. Sgt. Shannon Carter, 39th Mission Support Squadron personnel relocations and formal training NCO in charge.

Checklists can be updated to subtract or add specific agencies.

"This eliminates all the normal 'running around' to various base agencies you may never have used," Sergeant Carter said.

For example, members without school age dependents here at Incirlik won't have to make a physical stop at Department of Defense Dependents Schools to get their checklist signed off, Sergeant Carter said.

While virtual outprocessing eliminates a number of physical stops, it will not eliminate all of them.

"You will still be required to make some stops to pick up medical and dental records, clear Turkish customs and return chemical gear," Sergeant Carter said.

The checklist also lists helpful information for base agencies, such as points of contact, customer service hours, suspense dates and any items required for that stop.

Depending on each person's unique situation, the program, on average, has reduced physical outprocessing stops from approximately 30 to eight, Sergeant Carter said.



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore

Staff Sgt. Anika Cobb, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron traffic management inbound clerk, outprocesses online using the virtual Military Personnel Flight program. The program consolidates outprocessing actions into a single virtual checklist.

"That's a significant difference," she said. "The program is a great asset to base people."

For more information, call the MPF relocations office at 6-3126. (39th MSS Military Personnel Flight contributed to this article.)

Space-A policy allows travel for families of deployed

By Capt. Heather Healy
3rd Air Force Public Affairs

An exception to policy for Space-A travel makes traveling easier for family members of EUCOM servicemembers serving a deployment scheduled for more than 120 days.

The exception to policy allows family members to upgrade from Category V travel to Category III travel for one round trip without their sponsor.

"They don't have to compete with Category V travelers who are command sponsored," said Cindy Rothenbach, Air Mobility Command Patriot Express program manager. "It allows them to move up to Category III, which is the same as active-duty members on leave."

This exception to policy applies to Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps family members who are stationed along with their spon-

sors within the EUCOM area of responsibility.

Family members can use Space-A travel only for travel plans that keep them within the EUCOM AOR or take them to or from the continental United States and EUCOM AOR.

According to Lt. Col. Chris Pike, European Command Logistics and Security Assistance directorate, this is not a new policy, but one that was put into effect in 1998 when General Wesley Clark was the EUCOM commander.

"The point of this policy is we can do something for people who are separated from their spouses for an extended period of time," said Colonel Pike.

"If they need family support, they can get a one-time trip back to the United States or within the EUCOM AOR to visit their extended families."

This exception to policy also applies to family members whose military sponsor is on a 90-day deployment that is extended to 120 days.

In each case, the sponsor's unit commander or rear detachment commander provides the authorization memorandum for the family members who plan to take advantage of this special opportunity.

The memorandum must include the sponsor's name, social security number, date assigned to unit, name of deployment and effective date of employment.

The memorandum must also include a signed and dated statement from the travelers indicating they understand this exception to policy is only available once during their sponsor's 120-day deployment.

Family members should carry a copy of the memorandum on them while traveling and present the memorandum when signing up for Space-A travel.

"[The policy] has never been rescinded, so we just want to make sure people are aware of it," said Colonel Pike.

2003 annual award winners



Company Grade Officer of the Year
Capt. Robert Leo

39th Maintenance Squadron
munitions accountability systems officer

Captain Leo aced the Air Force Audit Agency's three-week accountability audit with no errors. He earned the only excellent-rated area in the 2003 surety inspection. He provided on-aircraft training for 190 people on base members and wrote the group's Plan - 1 evacuation operating instruction, which cut aircraft load time by 18 hours.



First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt. Roy Blanco
39th Mission Support Squadron
first sergeant

Sergeant Blanco provided support to more than 5,000 military and civilian members and their families at Incirlik. His one-on-one mentoring led to five U.S. Air Forces in Europe-level award winners. Sergeant Blanco helped safely evacuate 1,294 personnel to more than 600 worldwide safe havens in the United States.



Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Rich Sironen
39th Operations Squadron
chief controller

Sergeant Sironen led 13 controllers and two interpreters in U.S. Air Forces in Europe's only joint-air-traffic tower. He earned a bronze star for leading a 21-person element to restore air traffic control capability through Iraq while under fire. He also controlled Air Force One's first flight through Iraq in more than 20 years while the president was on board.



NCO of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Reiko Grof
39th Communications Squadron
network infrastructure NCO in charge

Sergeant Grof led her unit to win the 2003 U.S. Air Forces in Europe's Global Information Grid Facility of the Year for 2003. She increased the base's bandwidth from one to 10 megabits, which boosted the C2 network speed by 900 percent and cut network congestion. Sergeant Grof also helped install 40 local area network drops ahead of schedule.



Incirlik Air Base Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Lee Hoover
Air Force News Agency
NCO in charge of news

Airman Hoover assumed the position of news director for three months during a manning shortfall. He guided a three-person team through 60 flawless newscasts. Airman Hoover spearheaded the only print and broadcast coverage of Israel-Turkish-American exercise Anatolian Eagle. He also deployed to Saudi Arabia to cover the closure of Prince Sultan Air Base.



39th Air Base Wing Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Jason Porter
39th Contracting Squadron
contract specialist

Airman Porter led \$2.1 million in mission-essential contracts. He partnered with the civil engineer squadron to develop contractor site appearance standards. Airman Porter executed a \$148 thousand tent purchase which ensured more than 500 Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom personnel had adequate lodging.



Civilian of the Year - Non-supervisory
Linda Kunder
39th Contracting Squadron
procurement specialist

Ms. Kunder is responsible for managing U.S. Air Forces in Europe's largest service contract. She not only supported Incirlik, but also supported two major operating sites in Ankara and Izmir, and six geographically separated units. Ms. Kunder also processed \$1.3 million in requirements for current and future operations at Incirlik.



Civilian of the Year - Supervisory
Angela Mirich-Holder
39th Services Squadron
child development center director

Ms. Mirich-Holder helped with upgrading the child development center's playground areas. She raised the Department of Defense score by 10 points and led 50 team members in achieving one of the two highest scores received in U.S. Air Forces in Europe. Ms. Mirich-Holder also started Incirlik's first summer camp program for the family child care program.



Photo by Robbin Cresswell

AETC Special Duty Briefing team

Staff Sgt. Angelique Hall inspects a flight of airmen as part of her military training instructor duties. Sergeant Hall is an MTI for the 320th Training Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

The Air Education Training Command Special Duty Briefing Team will be here March 31. The team will give a briefing on military training instructor, recruiter and other special duties at 10 a.m. in building 833. Senior airmen through master sergeants with less than 17 years of total active federal military service are eligible to apply. Applications may be accepted on the spot.

For more information, call the Career Assistance Adviser, Tech. Sgt. Roberta Williams at 6-1019, or e-mail roberta.williams@incirlik.af.mil.



IN
BRIEF

Enlisted promotions

The March senior master sergeant promotees are: Darin Crowell, 39th Communications Squadron; Rene Guionnaud, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Tracey King, 39th Mission Support Squadron; David Lamm, Afelm-Ankara; Conrad Orouke, 39th Medical Squadron; Glen Paveglio, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron; Rich Sironen, 39th Operations Support Squadron; and John Trachte, 39th LRS.

AF Portal registration mandatory

Air Force senior leaders have asked that all Airmen sign up for a new Web-based technology that promises to streamline access to information across the force — the Air Force Portal. U.S. Air Forces in Europe members must register for a portal account no later than April.

Airmen may register for access to the portal by logging onto the Web site at <https://www.my.af.mil> and clicking on the self-registration link. The registration process is self-guided.

Team Incirlik committed to preventing sexual assaults

The Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team is a multidisciplinary team dedicated to education and prevention efforts aimed at ending sexual assault.

The base agencies included on the team are life skills, legal, family advocacy, medical, chaplain, OSI and security forces investigations. The team not only provides educational programs to help prevent sexual assaults but responds when there is any allegation of sexual assault.

“Prevention is our number one goal, however, if an assault occurs, the victim has the right to be treated with fairness and respect for their dignity and privacy,” said Maj. Diana Johnson, 39th Air Base Wing Judge Advocate and SARRT team member.

SARRT is committed to ensuring that safe reporting, sensitive treatment and support systems exist for sexual assault victims. The team offers information and resources to victims of sexual assault, recognizing the unique circumstances and concerns of members who serve on active duty.

The team can be activated by calling security forces at 6-3200, dialing 911 or calling the hospital at 6-6666.

Base to hold memorial service

The 39th Air Base Wing is holding a memorial service for Master Sgt. Andre White Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the base chapel.

Sergeant White died Feb. 28. He was the 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron Distribution Flight Asset Control Center superintendent.

“Sergeant White was a well-loved and respected member of the Incirlik community,” said Master Sgt. Leroy Weston, 39th LRS.

Sergeant White was born in Philadelphia, Penn., but called Asheville, N.C., home. He graduated T.C. Robers High School in Arden, N.C., before joining the active-duty Air Force Sept. 7, 1982.

Sergeant White served in a variety of supply positions in Strategic Air Command, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Air Combat Command and Pacific Air Forces. His previous assignments include Griffis Air Force Base, N.Y.; Hahn Air Base, Germany; Langley Air Force

Base, Va.; Kadena Air Base, Japan; and Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

He deployed to Saudi Arabia as an aircraft parts store NCO in charge during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Sergeant White is survived by his wife, Master Sgt. Melanie White, 39th LRS, and his daughter, Brandi Jene’ White.

He is also survived by four sisters: Leslie Chang of Cordova, Tenn.; Vivian Estrella-Rocca of Fallbrook, Calif.; Tracy Hicks of Barstow, Calif.; and Lisa Ann White of Asheville, N.C.

Sergeant White’s decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Southwest Asia Service medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Small Arms Expert Rifle Ribbon and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters.



(Left) Capt. Timothy Wright, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron Material Management Flight commander, talks to eighth grader Samantha Lally, 13, about career aspirations. The Company Grade Officer Council volunteers their time to help mentor students at Incirlik's middle school.

(Below) 1st Lt. David Ware, 39th Communications Squadron executive officer, talks to eighth grader Holland Lewis, 13, and Cinzia Bowie, 13.



Back to school **BASICS**

CGO council volunteers mentor Incirlik's youth

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Many people spend years and countless dollars in therapy striving to wipe away the memory of their middle-school days spent dodging balls in the gym and bullies in the hallways.

A few Company Grade Officer Council volunteers, however, are braving their flashbacks and taking the time to help seventh and eighth grade Incirlik students have a different kind of middle school experience.

The volunteers are big brothers and sisters of sorts, acting as mentors, advisers and, when needed, friends.

"The students need good mentors, especially at middle-school ages," said Catherine Duggan, eighth-grade adviser and special education teacher for seventh through 12th graders. "They need people they can look up to and show them that it's not just good, but cool, to do well in school."

The idea sprung out of a collaboration between Mrs. Duggan; Mrs. Henrietta Reddick, seventh-grade adviser; and Dr. Jon Tabije, 39th Medical Squadron psychologist.

"We saw an increasing need for positive role models," Mrs. Duggan said. "They're great kids, but we noticed some of the students weren't taking school very seriously. Squadrons have sponsored them in the past, so we thought it would be good to renew that effort."

Encouraged by the turnout from a school college night sponsored by the CGOC, Mrs.

Duggan contacted the organization, which was eager to take on a new community-service project.

"It's a great way to have a positive impact on our future leaders," said Capt. Timothy Wright, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron and CGOC member. "I think it helps the students to know there are people out there who are looking out for them and their futures."

Volunteers invest time on a weekly or bi-weekly basis and talk to the students about their jobs, the Air Force and even about civilian opportunities.

"It impacts the students both on personal and professional levels. It especially helps them to know there are people out there who care about them."

- Catherine Duggan

Eighth-grade adviser and special education teacher for seventh through 12th graders

"They're young, but can still benefit from learning about different potential careers," Captain Wright said. "Plus, all of the students have military members in their family, and we can help provide them with interaction with the military community."

CGOC volunteers assist with class projects and hope to provide honor roll students with a tour of various work centers where students can learn more about possible careers.

"We appreciate their help," said 13-year-old Russ Creger, seventh grade treasurer.

"The officers came by and helped us decide on a fundraiser. We planned a bake sale, and they helped us narrow it down to just selling cookies. They give us good ideas and help us be more organized."

The ultimate goal of the program is to have an officer mentor a small group of students rather than an entire class.

"We're hoping this partnership helps students develop more school spirit so they realize that school is more than just a place to hang out with friends," Ms. Duggan said.

"Everyone needs school, at least a basic education. This program can help instill the importance of that in the students."

"We also hope the adult interaction will help the students learn about positive relationships, so they, in turn, can have better relationships with each other," she added.

While teachers work hard to make school a positive experience, programs like the CGOC and student mentor program can also have a deep and lasting impact.

"This type of community involvement makes a big difference," Mrs. Duggan said. "It impacts the students both on personal and professional levels. It especially helps them to know there are people out there who care about them."

The school has other volunteer opportunities open to the community, including a tutoring program and mentoring for children of all ages. For more information or to volunteer, call Mrs. Duggan at 6-6330.

SFS topples LRS 34-28

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

After the Logistics Readiness Squadron stepped up to the basket last week and upset their undefeated season, the Security Forces Squadron finally got the last word when they beat LRS Monday, 34-28.

It was 'short and sweet,' and chauffeured in by a pint size 5'2" dynamo called Lil'O (Jennifer Ortego), who was the team's highest scorer with 17 points. The rest of her crew dazzled the crowd with fast breaks, in-your-face blocking, and furious ball-handling skills.

Two games ago, it was a different story and LRS squeaked by 27-25.

The two teams go way back. SFS held a close, friendly grudge ever since LRS beat them for the women's football championship earlier in the year. The momentum spilled over into the basket season where many of the same players faced off against each other again.

"Our strength was we have bigger players, and we tried to take advantage of our size and strength," said LRS assistant coach Al Dietz.

The larger size worked well on the field but didn't fair up as well on the court. Although they put up a good fight, SFS's speed and teamwork left LRS playing catch up.

"It feels real good to win, because LRS is a good team," said Vincent Beck, who subbed for the primary coach during the play offs and said his team pretty much coached themselves.

LRS coach said an extra year of chemistry would have made the difference.

"We had a couple of opportunities we didn't take advantage of, and they made one or two more plays than we did," Dietz said.

In fact, LRS was only behind four points in the first half, and in the second half they closed the gap by two points with 38 seconds on the clock.

LRS high scorer Michelle Brittingham led with 10 points, followed by Kristen Wood with six and Kari Schad with five.

On the edge of snatching victory, LRS Wood's gained one point for a free throw with 5.4 seconds until the clock bled out.

But Ortega and her teammates already built in a lead.



Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Miranda

Kelly Keefer, Logistics Readiness Squadron, performs a full-court press, as Stephanie Welch, Security Forces Squadron, takes it to the hoop. SFS beat LRS to take the season.

Both Candiac Henderson and Carol Hodges scored five points, backed up by Kelli Wise with four points and Stephanie Welch with three.

"This ain't football," Ortego called out to the departing LRS team. "It feels good to win, because everyone thought this was going to be like (the) football (season defeat). No one thought we would win."

A high scorer for her team with five points, Kelly Keefer was one of the LRS women to beat SFS at pigskin earlier in the year.

"It's all fair. You win some and lose some. I think we could have had more ball handling, but it's all about the fun and camaraderie," Keefer said.

After all, many of these girls play side-by-side on the base team and are traveling to the U.S. Air Forces in Europe large unit basketball championship March 25 to 30.

However, it didn't stop them from talking smack – as to the victor goes the spoils.

With a six-point lead, SFS mostly vertically-challenged crew shed some light on the old adage, "The bigger they are, the harder they fall."



Sports Briefs

Paintball: The Project Cheer paintball competition is Sunday at 8 a.m. in front of outdoor recreation. Everyone will play all day, and first- and second-place prizes will be given. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Anthony Crowdus at 6-6507.

Home Run Derby – The youth center spon-

sors a Home Run Derby March 27 at 10 a.m. for ages 8 to 18. Cost is \$2. For more information or to register, stop by the youth center or call 6-6670, 6-3246 or 6-3263.

Volunteer coaches — The youth center needs volunteers to coach youth baseball. The season runs April 17 to June 12. To volunteer, stop by the youth center and pick up a volunteer packet. For more information, call Bo Benton, 39th Services Squadron recreation specialist, at 6-6670.

Combat Hapkido — The fitness center sponsors Combat Hapkido Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:45 p.m. and Fridays at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the fitness center at 6-6086.

Scuba course — Outdoor recreation offers a scuba course, which includes training and Pro-

fessional Association of Diving Instructors certification. Water training provided in an indoor pool, plus four open water dives in Kizkalesi. Classes are ongoing. Cost is \$250. For more information, call Yasar Karalar, scuba instructor, at 6-6044 or e-mail incirlikdiving@yahoo.com.

Rugby — Rugby enthusiasts meet Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 5 p.m. at the high school sports field. Everyone is welcome. Instruction is provided for beginners. For more information, call the fitness center at 6-6086.

Skeet and trap shooting — Outdoor recreation offers skeet and trap shooting Tuesdays through Fridays by appointment. Open shooting begins Saturdays at 9 a.m. Cost is \$10 and includes shells and clays. For more information, call 6-6044.

We are positioned at the crossroads between Europe and Asia and are well postured to support full-spectrum operations including Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom ... Supporting such diverse operations will be both exciting and challenging, and I know ...

Incirlik will meet challenges head on

By Col. Michael Gardiner
39th Air Base Wing commander

As one of the newest members of team Incirlik, I am proud to join this group of outstanding professionals. It is my honor to serve as the 39th Air Base Wing commander.

Despite the turmoil of the past year, U.S. Air Forces in Europe never lost sight of the importance of Incirlik's strategic location and robust infrastructure, and our leadership recognized the need to re-establish a wing.

We are positioned at the crossroads between Europe and Asia and are well postured to support full-spectrum operations including Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In addition, Turkey's favorable weather, airspace availability and ranges make Incirlik an attractive location for weapons training deployments supporting fighter units in Germany, Italy and England. Supporting such diverse operations will be both exciting and challenging. I know Incirlik will meet these challenges head on.

Today we are supporting tankers providing air refueling support for operations in Central and Southwest Asia. We are also serving as a main hub rotating Army troops in and out of Iraq in the largest such movement since World War II. To date, more than 7,000 troops have passed through Incirlik on their way home.

The Incirlik community has taken these returning soldiers under their wing and

My priorities as the new 39th ABW commander:

- Focus on anti-terrorism and force protection
- Maintain high state of readiness to accomplish mission
- Expertly execute our mission
- Continually enhancing our relationship with our Turkish hosts
- Maintain quality of life

shown them world-class hospitality. Every soldier I've talked with was blown away by the love shown by team Incirlik.

As with any new commander, I need to let you know my priorities. First, we must focus on anti-terrorism and force protection. This means protecting our resources and our people. I include safety under force protection.

Second, we must maintain a high state of readiness to accomplish our mission. Our troops must be trained and equipped to do their jobs.

Third, we must expertly execute our mission.

Fourth, is quality of life, but there is a ribbon of quality of life running through everything we do, including AT/FP, readiness and mission execution. Airmen, who feel unsafe or unprepared to do their jobs, do not enjoy a high quality of life standard.

Finally, we need to enhance our relationship with our Turkish hosts. Turkey has been an ally for many years, and our Turkish friends will have a big impact on our lives at Incirlik.

In addition to the priorities above, USAFE has developed Combat and Special Interest Programs designed to enhance mission accomplishment and the quality of life for all members of our Air Force family: military, civilians and families. These programs are having a significant positive impact on every member of team Incirlik.

Incirlik has endured much change and turmoil over the past months. We no longer support Operation Northern Watch and the thousands of deployed Airmen who served here since the end of the first Gulf War. Short term we must concentrate on transforming Incirlik into a "regular" Air Force Base and return some normalcy to the lives of our people.

One thing you will learn about me is I never aim low. Although I expect it to take some time to transition from a group back to a wing, we need to make this period as short as possible, with the ultimate goal of making this the best wing in the best Air Force the world has ever known.

ACTION LINE



Col. Michael Gardiner
39th Air Base Wing Commander

The action line program provides an avenue for the Incirlik community to voice their concerns, complaints and opinions to Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th Air Base Wing commander.

The program should only be used after you've tried resolving the issue through your chain of command.

People can submit an action line by e-mailing action.line@incirlik.af.mil or calling the 39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office at 6-6060.

Questions and responses may be printed in the *Tip of the Sword*.

ASK

MEHMET



By Mehmet Birbiri, Host Nation Adviser

Spring

Question: Mehmet, I have heard so many things about “Nevruz.” What is Nevruz, and why are some people expecting violence? When is Nevruz?

Response: Literally, Nevruz means “new day.” It falls on the first day of spring. It’s also the Iranian New Year’s Day.

Some people who speak Indo-European languages believe God created the universe and humans on that day. Nevruz celebrations are related to Zoroastrianism, a religion founded in Persia.

During Nevruz celebrations, fires are started and people jump over the fire with resolutions and wishes. According to a tale, a Kurdish hero killed a cruel king to save his tribe on Nevruz. That’s why Kurdish people celebrate Nevruz in a big way.

For centuries, Nevruz was a celebration of peace, brotherhood and good will in the Middle East, Caucasus, the Balkans and Central Asia. In the early 1990s, though, members of Kurdish terrorist organizations celebrated it as a day of rioting and rebellion. Violence replaced the good-will celebrations and peace.

In 1995, the government of Turkey an-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shanda De Anda

Asure, a Turkish dish, is believed to have been cooked since Noah’s time. The dish is cooked and shared with friends and neighbors to commemorate the landing of Noah’s Ark.



Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Miranda

The first day of spring in Turkey is Nevruz, meaning “new day.” With spring comes Nevruz celebrations, a time when people jump over fires with resolutions and wishes. For centuries, Nevruz was a celebration of peace, brotherhood and good will in the Middle East, Caucasus, the Balkans and Central Asia.

nounced Nevruz as a national festival. After that, the state organizations’ participation in the celebrations resumed and Nevruz returned to its original meaning and purpose.

Meanwhile, the Turkish security forces take measures to deter potential violent activities on that day every year.

Asure

Question: Mehmet, my Turkish co-workers bring their food for lunch from home. From time to time they ask me to join them when they bring something special. Yesterday, they brought a kind of desert that I’ve never seen or tasted before. It contained some fruit and spices. What is it?

Response: The dish you talk about is called “asure” in Turkish. Asure is one of the greatest indicators of the cultural richness of this country that dates back thousands of years. It’s believed that asure has been cooked since Noah’s time in this country. There’s a tale behind it.

Noah sailed in his ark for 40 days and nights after the big flood. During those 40 days, the people in the ark ate nearly all the food. Noah gathered all the remaining food from the corners of the ark, put it in a huge pot and cooked it altogether. The result was asure. It lasted until the ark landed and the waters withdrew.

The ark landed on top of Mount Ararat, located in Eastern Turkey. Mount Ararat is called “Agri Dagı” in Turkish.

It’s believed that the ark landed on top of

the mountain around the tenth day of the tenth month, according to the lunar calendar. On that day every year, in appreciation to God and commemoration of the ark’s landing, asure is cooked and shared with friends and neighbors. Last week, we received asure from nine different neighbors. We distributed our home-cooked asure to more than 20 neighbors.

My family’s recipe

Depending on the cook, there may be slight differences, but generally asure is cooked the same way. Here is my family’s recipe:

The major ingredients: two pounds dehusked wheat, one pound of chickpeas, one pound of white beans and five pounds of sugar.

The secondary ingredients are mostly dried fruits like raisins, apricots, figs and plums. The chickpeas and beans are put in water and soaked separately for one day. That way, they absorb water and become ready for cooking. Wheat is put in a big pot with water. When it starts to boil, sugar, chickpeas and beans are added. They are stirred continuously and water is added as required.

Then, the dried fruit is added. The dried fruit may be soaked in water for a while before adding them to the pot. If they’re big in size, they can be cut into smaller pieces.

A glass of milk can be added to the mixture. Some people add various fragrant and tasty spices to the pot, while others boil those spices separately and pour the extract into the pot.

When the mixture becomes jelly-like, pour it into bowls. Right before serving, put cinnamon and crushed walnuts on top. It is served cold.

THE INCIRLIK GUIDE



Today

A little touch of Harry — The community center hosts a theatrical event at 6 p.m. For more information, call 6-6966.

Saturday

Hispanic heritage — The Incirlik Hispanic Heritage Club will have a potluck and membership drive from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the community center. For more information call, Senior Airman Rachel Villegas, Hispanic Heritage Club member, at 6-6441 or Ada Aitken, Hispanic Heritage Club member, at 6-3380.

Sunday

D Street festival — Incirlik's Airmen Committed to Excellence organization sponsors a street festival at 4 p.m. in the Consolidated Club Complex parking lot. Cost is \$1 and includes food and drinks. There will be numerous activities available, including disc-jockeyed music, pie throwing, moonwalk and ultimate frisbee. For more information, call Senior Airman Jason Porter, ACE president, at 6-8084.

Monday

FTAY nominations due — To nominate Airmen for Incirlik's Air Force Sergeants Association First Term Airman of the Year packages must be e-mailed to Master Sgt. Jeff Martin, AFSA Chapter 1660 president, at jeffrey.martin@incirlik.af.mil. Award packages are limited to the front side only of the new Air Force Form 1206 IMT version one, and should cover Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2003. Winners must be able to attend the division convention May 6 through 8 at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, as well as the International Convention in August. Funding provided by AFSA. For

more information, call Sergeant Martin at 6-8084.

Tuesday

Women's Health, Wellness and Awareness Fair — There will be a Women's Health Wellness and Awareness Fair from 2 to 4 p.m. at the fitness center, followed by an aerobics or Pilates class given by Sonya Shields. This event is sponsored by the Women's History Month Committee. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Tiffani Johnson, fitness center sports director, at 6-1101.

Wednesday

Poster and Essay contest — Entries for the elementary-school poster and seventh and eighth grade essay contests are due by 1 p.m. A first, second and third place prize will be awarded for each category, and winning entries will be displayed at the Women's History Month luncheon Thursday. For more information, call Ada Aitken, Women's History Month Committee chair, at 6-3380.

Thursday

Women's History Month Luncheon — Incirlik's Women's History Month Committee sponsors a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the club. The guest speakers will be Lt. Col. Toni Kemper, 39th Air Base Wing director of staff, and Anne McKenzie. Tickets are \$4.85 for club members and \$6.85 for non-members and includes a lunch choice of chicken Caesar salad or bacon, ham and turkey stack sandwich. For more information, call Ada Aitken, Women's History Month Committee chair, at 6-3380.

Dramatic Desserts — The Incirlik high school drama class and honor society will present "Dramatic Desserts" in the multipurpose room at the high school. The drama class will present a short play, monologues and dialogues, and the honor society will serve a buffet of desserts, coffee and other beverages. For more information, call the high school at 6-6330.

COMBAT & SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS



Today

American Food Night — Combat Touch sponsors an American Food Night at the Crossroads Café from 7 to 11 p.m. Food is free, and people 18 years and older are welcomed. For more information, Call Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Sutter, 39th Air Base Wing chaplain, at 6-6441.

Recognize volunteers — To recognize Incirlik volunteers, e-mail a list of people who have volunteered time and service to the community in the past year to Christine Politte, 39th Mission Support Squadron family life specialist, at christina.politte@incirlik.af.mil. Names must be received by today to be included in the tribute to volunteerism during National Volunteer Week. For more information, call Ms. Politte at 6-6755.

Children's story hour — Project Wizard presents a story hour for children from 10:30 to 11 a.m. In addition to the story, snack and crafts will be provided. This event is open to pre-school children. For more information, call 6759.

Saturday

Italian Food Night — Combat Touch sponsors an Italian Food Night at the Crossroads Café from 6 to 10 p.m. Food is free. All ages are welcome. For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Sutter, 39th Air Base Wing chaplain, at 6-6441.

Madden challenge — Project Cheer sponsors a Madden

football challenge at the community center from 12:30 to 6 p.m. The cost is \$10, and the winner takes the cash. For more information, call 6-6966.

Sunday

Chess tourney — Project Cheer hosts a chess tourney at the community center from 4 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$2 per person, and the winner takes cash. For more information, call 6-6966.

Monday

CWOC meeting — Combat Touch will host a Catholic Women of the Chapel meeting in the chapel conference room at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 6-6441.

Tuesday

Scrabble tournament — Project Cheer sponsors a Scrabble tournament at the community center from 6 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$2 per person and the winner takes the cash. For more information, call 6-6966.

Upcoming

National Volunteer Week — Volunteers are needed to plan events and activities for National Volunteer Week April 18-24. For more information or to volunteer, call Christina Politte, 39th Mission Support Squadron family life specialist, at 6-6755.

Ongoing

Hidden Heroes volunteers — The Hidden Heroes office seeks volunteers. For more information or to view a list of volunteer opportunities in the Incirlik community, call 6-6755.

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Lisa Robinson, 39th Mission Support Squadron human resources specialist, GS-11

Time on station: Two and a half years

Time in service: 15 years

Hometown: Aitkin, Minn.

Hobbies: Golfing, reading and watching my children play sports

How do you contribute to the air base wing's mission? "I work in the affirmative employment and employee management relation section of the Civilian Personnel Office. I provide personnel advisory services to managers and current and perspective employees and ensure Incirlik attracts quality candidates and sustains a top-notch work force. Civil servants are an integral part of Team Incirlik and play a vital role in accomplishing our mission."

What do you like most about Incirlik?

The people and the camaraderie of a close knit community.

Why did you join the Air Force? "I joined

the Air Force initially for the benefits and travel, and later became a civil servant to accompany my military spouse and maintain a challenging, rewarding career."

What's your favorite motto and why? "The great thing in the world is not so much where we are, but in which direction we are moving."

What Air Force core value best describe you, and why? "Service before self. This past year has been turbulent for the base, from the [voluntary evacuation] to our transitions through various organizational structures. These changes have significantly increased personnel activity, and we have had to rise to the challenge of meeting these unique demands, which means long hours, late nights and time away from my family. Nevertheless, I do it with a smile and pride in knowing I can see how my piece of the puzzle positively impacts mission accomplishment."

Supervisor's quote: "Lisa is the epitome of selfless service, tackling her assignments with enthusiasm, professionalism and teamwork," said Veronica Hinton, 39th Air Base Wing civilian personnel officer, GS-13. "She has single-handedly managed both affirmative employment and employee management relation sections for more than two months during an unusually active recruitment season. She is always responsive to customer needs, ensuring that Incirlik meets the Air Force personnel vision of having the right people, at the right place, at the right time."

at Redwoods, made less than eight months ago, \$1,500 OBO. Call Dave at 6-2372.

For sale: Antique carpets from Kayseri, can't find in the Alley, \$750 each. Call 6-5683.

For sale: Assorted toddler toys, including easel with clip, Legos, trucks, a Sit-n-Spin and stuffed animals; various Tupperware products; couch; and toddler clothes; all in great condition. Call for prices at 6-5191.

For sale: Full-size couch and loveseat, floral print, very comfortable, smoke-free home, \$300 OBO. Call Jeremy or Ashley at 6-5718 (home) or 6-6757 (work).

Help wanted: Nutritionists/dietitians/nurses. Requires a bachelor's degree in nutrition, dietetics, nursing or home economics. Experience in prenatal, maternal or infant nutrition required. Registered dietician preferred. Experience with WIC desirable. Must have current driver's license. E-mail resume, cover letter and copy of applicable licenses to wicjobs@cmse.net and staci.crawford@lakenheath.af.mil, fax to (210) 341-3455, or mail to Choctaw Management Services Enterprise, Attn: WIC Overseas, 2162 NW Military Hwy, Suite 308, San Antonio, Texas, 78231. For more information, call DSN 226-9016.

YOUR TURN



To submit a question for "Your Turn," call 6-6060 or e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil

What do you like best about being at Incirlik and why?

"The tax-free benefit ... The extra money helps me better take care of my family and allows us to travel and explore Turkey."

– **Airman 1st Class Angel**

Bermudez, 39th Security Forces Squadron



"The slow-paced environment ... It's a quiet, nice place to raise children. Since there aren't a lot of distractions, you can focus on spending quality time with your family."

– **Fatima Seymore**



"The strong community atmosphere ... The best part about being here is the friends I've made and being part of a tight-knit community."

– **2nd Lt. Dustin**

Johnson, 39th Communications Squadron



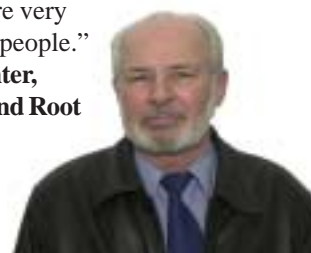
"I like the fact that we're on an accompanied remote, and our family doesn't have to be apart."

– **Colleen Hurdle and Logan, 8 months**



"The people ... My wife is Turkish, and the Turkish people are very friendly and nice people."

– **Everatt Slaughter, Vinnell, Brown and Root**



CLASSIFIEDS

For free: Young female German Shephard mix. Loveable and playful. Good with children and current on shots. Call Melissa at 6-5190 during the day or 6-6688 at night.

For sale: 1997 Dodge Neon, A/C, new transmission, Pioneer subwoofer, amplifier, rear speakers, Kenwood CD player, very good condition, \$5,000. Call Halil at 05277083963 or 4571024.

For sale: Two-piece cherrywood entertainment center. Purchased in the states two years ago, minor scratches from move, but nothing that can't be fixed in the alley. The entertainment center has two shelves on one side and CD storage on the bottom. One piece has shelves with a light at the top and space on the bottom, the other piece has a CD case with cabinets on the bottom and a shelf on top with a light. Very nice. \$100 OBO. A must see. Call Andrea or Branden at 6-5400.

For sale: Six-piece entertainment center, made

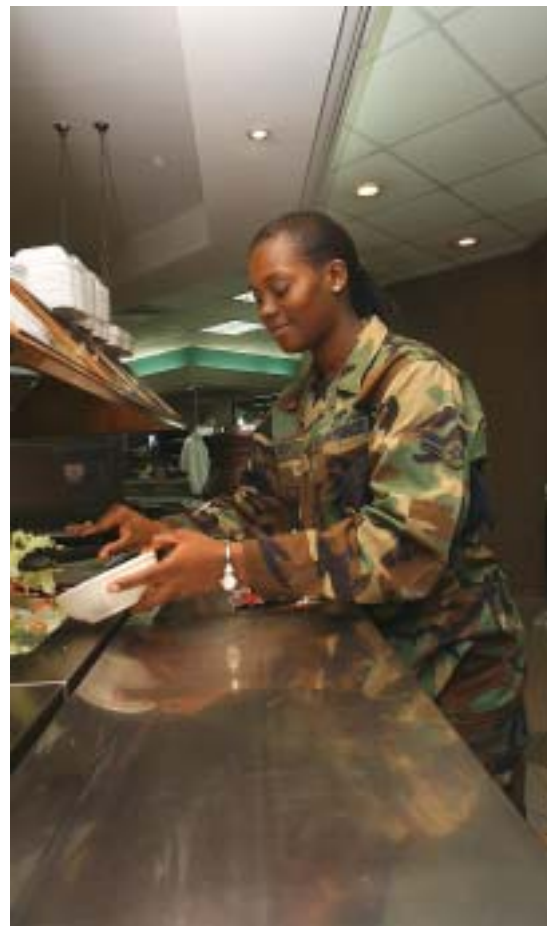


Photos by Senior Airman James Seymore

Chow time

(Above) Senior Airman Alisha Ardis and Staff Sgt. Tracy Washington, 39th Medical Squadron substance abuse counselors, eat lunch at the Sultan Inn Dining Facility. **(Right)** Airman 1st Class Yasmine Red, 39th Security Forces Squadron pass and registration clerk, fixes a salad. The dining facility offers a variety of services for Team Incirlik throughout the day and night. It does not officially open for midnight meals until 12:30 a.m., but a cashier is posted at the main-line cash register starting at midnight so mid-shift workers can stop by and get a cup of coffee. For duty sections lacking access to refreshment sources, the dining facility offers bulk coffee. People have to provide their own coffee container at least one hour in advance.

The dining facility also offers grab-and-go box lunches 24/7. The first-of-the-year, menu-planning board meets Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the dining facility. For more information about services offered at the dining facility, call the manager, Lincoln Breckenridge, at 6-6602.



AT THE MOVIES

At the Oasis

Today

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King (PG-13) – Starring Elijah Wood and Ian McKellen. Hobbits Frodo and Sam push farther into the land of Mordor to destroy the ring of power. Traveling with them is the de-



ceitful Gollum, who brings them to the very heart of Mount Doom. The warrior Aragorn, revealed to be the lost King of Gondor, travels

to Minis Tirith with an army of undead soldiers to rescue the ancient city. (210 minutes)

Saturday

Peter Pan (PG) – Starring Jason Issacs

and Jeremy Sumpter. One night in their nursery, young London siblings Wendy, John and Michael Darling encounter a strange flying boy named Peter Pan,

who invites them to soar with him to Neverland. (105 minutes)

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King (PG-13) – Starring Elijah Wood and Ian McKellen. (210 minutes)

Sunday

Cheaper by the Dozen (PG) – Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt. When a football coach is offered the top job at Northwestern University, he sets out for Chicago with his wife and their 12 children. When her writing career takes off, the two must balance their jobs and the chaotic task of parenting. Showing at 5 p.m. (98 minutes)



The Last Samurai (R) – Starring Tom Cruise and Ken Watanabe. A 19th-century American military officer travels to Japan to help organize and teach the emperor's troops

during a time of feudal conflict on the island.

As he learns more about the samurai, the traditional protectors of feudal lands, he comes to understand and appreciate the complicated system of honor under which they live. Showing at 7 p.m. (144 minutes)



Thursday

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King (PG-13) – Starring Elijah Wood and Ian McKellen. (210 minutes)

At the M1

Brother Bear (PG) — 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:45 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. (85 minutes)

Scary Movie (R) — 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. (84 minutes)

Cheaper by the Dozen — 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. (98 minutes)

Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) — 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. (128 minutes)

Seabiscuit (R) — 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. and midnight (96 minutes)

Paycheck (R) — 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. (96 minutes)

The provision of movie information does not constitute an endorsement by the 39th Air Base Group, U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the U.S. Air Force. For more information, call the theater at 6-6986.